



UpState RailConnect Committee

**Affecting Local Economy
By
Acting Regionally**

**Coordinating the Humboldt
Bay Alternative Rail Route
Feasibility Study**

Membership

**Trinity County
Tehama County
Humboldt County**

City of Eureka

**Northern Calif. Tribal
Chair Association**

**UpState Calif. Economic
Development Council**

March 5.2013

Mike Wilson
Humboldt Bay Harbor
Recreation and Conservation District
P.O. Box 1030
Eureka, Ca. 95502-1030

Dear Mr. Wilson

Thank you for your recent letter expressing support for the pursuit of the Alternative Rail Route Feasibility Study. We recognize that you are one of several stake holders involved with the Humboldt Bay Harbor. We appreciate your effort to provide recommendations to the *UpState RailConnect Committee*.

We want to assure you that the concept of conducting a “market” study prior to the feasibility study has been thoroughly discussed. We concluded that the the feasibility study will generate information that will be utilized by others in the development of valid and timely market studies and/or operational models. To create these market studies and/or models without the benefit of the feasibility study information would require making a vast number of assumptions which would put the validity of any study or modeling results in serious question.

The Harbor District may not understand that the *UpState RailConnect Committee* does not envision owning or operating the railroad. Rather it is the *UpState RailConnect Committee’s* role to coordinate the development of a package of pertinent feasibility information. This package will allow private businesses, investors and relevant decision makers to develop their own models and business plans based upon their needs.

As you know, NCRA and NWPRR have significant documentation in the public domain related to the restoration of the existing north-south line. There already exists documentation on north-south rail line restoration and that line already has an operator and a public agency overseeing that rail line. The *Upstate RailConnect Committee* is involved strictly in evaluating the feasibility

of a new east-west rail line; not north-south and thus is not seeking to do that which has already been done. As is your Commission; the *UpState RailConnect Committee* is also fully supportive of NCRA and NWPRR but is focused on the exploration of an east-west route and the proposed feasibility study has the written support of the rail operator, the NWPRR. It is among the other 35 plus letters of support from local, state and federal agencies; unions, educational institutions, tribal groups, businesses and individuals.

Lastly, we also understand the need to prioritize funding and staff time. The *UpState RailConnect Committee* is asking for neither funding nor staff time from the Harbor District. As with all identified stake holders, we would like to ask for your cooperation with the study when its consultant(s) ask to meet with you and or your staff to receive current information on port development present and future from the Harbor District's perspective.

Thank you again for your comments. Please feel free to contact me anytime. I can be reached at landbridgealliance@gmail.com; or follow our progress on the City of Eureka's website at http://www.ci.eureka.ca.gov/depts/council/rail_study.asp; or at the Land Bridge Alliance web site; [Land Bridge Alliance .org](http://LandBridgeAlliance.org)

Sincerely,

Lance Madsen,
Chair

CC: Commissioners of the Humboldt Bay Harbor
Recreation and Conservation District
UpState RailConnect Committee